IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend Paragraph [0006] as follows:

[0006] A vast preponderance of ground engaging teeth, however, are designed as two-part systems. A conventional two-part digging tooth system or assembly includes a digging/ground engaging tooth and an adapter arranged in operable combination with each other. The adapter includes a base or mounting portion and a nose portion projecting forward from the bucket edge and to which the digging tooth is releasably attached. In many applications, the base of the adapter is secured, as by welding to the leading edge of the bucket. In some designs, another wear component, in the form of a cap, is provided rearwardly of the digging tooth for adding wear protection to the adapter ~~against wear~~.

Please amend Paragraph [0007] as follows:

[0007] Regardless of the particular design of the digging tooth, be it of one -piece design or configured as a two-part system or assembly, wear and deterioration of the leading bucket edge is a very serious concern. The leading or cutting edge of the bucket is typically quite hard to protect against impacts, wear, and undue stress associated with typical excavating operations, while protection of the leading or cutting bucket edge remains of paramount importance. While lengthwise portions of the bucket edge are protected by the mounting portion of either design of the digging tooth, those portions of the bucket edge spanning the distance between adjacent

laterally spaced digging teeth remain exposed to the same harsh and wearing environment as the digging teeth. Unfortunately, the front cutting edge of the digging tooth provides only a limited ground fracturing zone in advance of the bucket cutting edge. As such, known digging tooth designs have limited affects on the compacted ground material passing between adjacent digging teeth. Due to the onerous economic penalties associated with replacing the bucket cutting edge and related hardware replacement, some companies add a costly carbide hardfacing process to extend the life of those portions of the bucket edge between laterally adjacent digging teeth. Such carbide hardfacing applications, however, often exceed the cost of a new bucket edge.

Please amend Paragraph [0011] as follows:

[0011] In view of the above, and in accordance with one aspect there is provided a digging tooth adapted to extend forward from a digging implement having a transversely extending edge. The digging tooth defines a longitudinal centerline and has a forward end portion, with a cutting edge extending thereacross, and a rear end portion configured for attachment to the edge of the implement. The digging tooth further includes upper and lower angularly diverging surfaces having opposed side surfaces therebetween. The digging tooth further includes a wing projecting laterally outwardly from each side surface on the tooth. Each wing is preferably formed integral with the remainder of the tooth and has upper and lower planar surfaces each extending in a direction generally paralleling the cutting edge across the forward end portion of the tooth. The

upper ~~and lower surfaces~~ surface of each wing ~~are~~ is disposed between the upper and lower surfaces of the tooth and in other than planar relationship relative to the upper ~~and lower surfaces~~ surface of the digging tooth. In one form, the lower surface of each wing is disposed in between the upper and lower surfaces of the tooth and in other than planar relationship with the lower surface of the digging tooth. Moreover, each wing has a laterally widened rear portion, a laterally narrowed forward portion, and an outer edge extending therebetween for providing the tooth with a progressively widening ground fracturing zone whereby adding significant wear protection for the edge of the implement.

Please amend Paragraph [0016] as follows:

[0016] According to another aspect, there is provided an elongated digging tooth adapted to extend forward from a digging implement having a transversely extending edge. The digging tooth defines a central axis and has a forward end portion, with a transverse cutting edge, and a rear end portion configured for attachment to the transversely extending edge of the implement. The digging tooth further includes upper and lower angularly diverging surfaces having opposed side surfaces therebetween. The digging tooth further includes wing structure projecting generally horizontally and laterally outward from an area on one side of the tooth. The wing structure is preferably formed integral with the remainder of the digging tooth and has generally horizontal upper and lower surfaces. ~~The~~ In one form, the upper and lower surfaces of the wing structure

are disposed between and in other than planar relationship relative to the upper and lower surfaces of the digging tooth. The wing structure has a laterally widened rear portion, a laterally narrowed front portion, and an outer edge extending therebetween and, for a major portion of the length thereof, converges toward the central axis of the tooth so as to provide the digging tooth with a widening ground penetration zone for facilitating penetration of the bucket edge.

Please amend Paragraph [0018] as follows:

[0017] In one form, a major lengthwise portion of the outer edge of the wing structure is configured to enhance the ability of the wing to slice through and fracture the ground. Preferably, the wing structure is disposed on the tooth in generally symmetrical relation relative to the central axis of the tooth whereby permitting the digging tooth to be reversed about ~~he~~ the central axis.

Please amend Paragraph [0018] as follows:

[0018] In another form, the digging tooth is provided with a second wing structure ~~is provided on and~~ projecting generally horizontally and laterally outward from an area on an opposite side of the tooth. The second wing structure has generally horizontal upper and lower surfaces, with the upper and lower surfaces of the second wing structure being disposed between and in other than planar relationship relative to the upper and lower surfaces of the digging tooth. The second wing structure preferably has a rear laterally widened portion, a laterally narrowed

front portion, and an outer edge extending therebetween and converging toward the central axis of said tooth whereby providing the digging tooth with a widening ground penetration zone for facilitating penetration of the transversely extending edge on the digging implement. In a most preferred form, the wing structure extending from those areas on opposed sides of the tooth are arranged proximately midway between the upper and lower surfaces of said tooth.

Please amend Paragraph [0025] as follows:

[0025] According to another aspect, there is provided a ground engaging tooth adapted to be mounted to a digging implement and having a wear component arranged rearwardly thereof. The ground engaging tooth defines a central axis and has a forward end portion, with an edge extending transversely thereacross, and a rear end portion. The digging tooth further includes upper and lower angularly diverging surfaces having opposed side surfaces therebetween. The digging tooth further includes a free ended projection extending laterally outwardly from each side surface on the tooth. Each wing is preferably formed integral with the remainder of the tooth and has upper and lower planar surfaces each extending in a direction generally paralleling the cutting edge across the forward end portion of the tooth. ~~The~~ In one form, the upper and lower surfaces of each wing are disposed between and in other than planar relationship relative to the upper and lower surfaces of the digging tooth. Moreover, each wing has a laterally widened rear portion, a laterally narrowed forward portion, and an outer edge extending therebetween for providing the

tooth with a progressively widening ground fracturing zone whereby adding significant wear protection for the edge of the implement.

Please amend Paragraph [0027] as follows:

[0027] In one form, the projection on the tooth extends away from the upper surface of the tooth in a direction extending generally normal to the edge extending transversely across the forward end of the tooth. In another form, the projection is laterally offset relative to the upper surface of the tooth such that the projection is disposed closer to one side surface of the tooth than the other. In still another form, the projection extends upwardly from and longitudinally along an area generally centralized between the side surfaces on the tooth. Regardless of where the projection is located on the digging tooth, a cutting edge extends along a major portion of the outer extreme of the projection to facilitate ground penetration by the projection.

Please amend Paragraph [0030] as follows:

[0030] In another embodiment, the ground engaging tooth includes a second free ended projection designed as a mirror image of the other free ended projection. That is, the second free ended projection extends from the other side surface on the tooth. More specifically, such second projection on the tooth extends laterally outwardly from the other side and, in one form, proximately midway between the upper and lower surfaces and in a direction generally parallel to

the edge extending transversely across the forward end of the tooth. In both embodiments, the projection is preferably formed as an integral part of the digging tooth.

Please amend Paragraph [0038] as follows:

[0038] According to still another aspect, there is provided an elongated digging tooth for a two-piece digging tooth assembly adapted to be secured to a transversely extending edge of a bucket or the like. The digging tooth defines a central axis and has a front end, with a cutting edge transversely extending thereacross, a rear end having a blind cavity opening thereto for receiving and accommodating a nose portion of an adapter extending forward from the transversely extending edge of the bucket. The tooth and adapter each define a bore which are arranged in registry with one another after the digging tooth and adapter are conjoined so as to allow a retaining apparatus to pass at least partially through the bores whereby maintaining said tooth and adapter in operable combination with each other. The bore in the tooth defines an axis extending generally normal to the central axis of the tooth. The digging tooth further including an upper surface extending forward and downwardly from the rear end and toward the cutting edge of said digging tooth, and a lower surface extending forward and upwardly from the rearward end and toward the cutting edge of the digging tooth. The digging tooth further includes a generally horizontal projection extending laterally outward from an area on one side of the tooth, with the projection having upper and lower surfaces preferably disposed between and in other than planar

relationship relative to the upper and lower surfaces of the digging tooth. The projection on the tooth is disposed rearward of the axis defined by the bore in the tooth and the rear end of said tooth whereby providing the digging tooth with a progressively widening ground penetration zone for facilitating penetration of the bucket edge.

Please amend Paragraph [0096] as follows:

[0096] In the illustrated embodiment shown, wing structure 80 including wings 82, 84 is preferably formed integral with the reminder of the digging tooth 22. In one form, each wing 82, 84 is designed such that a dynamic or longitudinally swept back configuration is provided to the tooth 22. In the embodiment illustrated in FIGS 1 and 4, each wing 82, 84 extending laterally outward from the side surfaces 42, 44, respectively, has a rear laterally widened portion 86, a laterally narrowed forward or front portion 88, and an outer edge 90 extending therebetween.

Please amend Paragraph [0099] as follows:

[0099] As shown in FIG. 3, a rear portion of each wing 82, 84, extending laterally from a respective side surface on the digging tooth 22, has a generally planar first or upper surface 92 and a generally planar second or lower surface 92 extending toward the outer edge 90. ~~The~~ Preferably, the upper ~~and lower surfaces~~ surface 92 ~~and 94, respectively,~~ of each wing or projection 82, 84 is disposed between the upper and lower surfaces 30 and 32, respectively, of the

tooth 22 and in other than a planar relationship relative to the upper ~~and lower surfaces~~ surface 30~~, 32, respectively~~ on the digging tooth 22. In the most preferred form, the lower surface 94 of each wing 82, 84 is disposed between the upper and lower surfaces 30 and 32, respectively, of the tooth 22 and in other than a planar relationship relative to the lower surface 32 on the digging tooth 22. In the preferred form, each projection 82, 84 extends laterally outward from an area on the respective side surface of the tooth 22 disposed proximately midway between the upper and lower surfaces 30, 32, respectively, of tooth.22. That section of the outer edge 90 arranged linearly proximate to the rear of each wing, and as shown in FIG. 5, is preferably configured to promote the entrapment of dirt fines between the wings of laterally adjacent teeth 22 and the bucket edge 14. The entrapment of such dirt fines further promotes protection of the exposed portion of the bucket edge 14.

Please amend Paragraph [0109] as follows:

[0109] As shown in FIG. 10, a rear portion of each wing 182, 184, extending laterally from a respective side surface on the digging tooth 122, has a generally planar first or upper surface 192 and a generally planar second or lower surface 194 extending toward the outer edge 190. The upper surface 192 of each wing 182, 184 extends in a direction generally parallel to the cutting edge 146 (FIG. 8) at the forward end 136 of the digging tooth. ~~The~~ In that embodiment shown in FIG. 10, the upper ~~and lower surfaces~~ surface 192 ~~and 194, respectively,~~ of each wing or

projection 182, 184 is disposed between the upper and lower surfaces 130 and 132, respectively, on the digging tooth 122 and in other than planar relationship relative to the upper ~~and lower surfaces~~ surface 130, 132~~, respectively~~ on the digging tooth 122. Moreover, and in that embodiment illustrated in FIG. 10, the lower surface 194 of each wing or projection 182, 184 is disposed between the upper and lower surfaces 130 and 132, respectively, of the tooth 122 and in other than a planar relationship relative to the lower surface 132 of the tooth 122. In the preferred form, each projection 182, 84 extends laterally outward from an area on the respective side surface of the tooth 122 disposed proximately midway between the upper and lower surfaces 130, 132, respectively, of tooth 122. That section of the outer edge 190 linearly proximate to the rear of each wing, and as shown in FIG. 10, is preferably configured to promote the entrapment of dirt fines between the wings of laterally adjacent teeth and the bucket edge to further promote protection of the exposed portion of the bucket edge.

Please amend Paragraph [0144] as follows:

[0144] According to the present invention, and as shown in FIGS. 24 and 25, tooth 522 further includes wing structure 580 including first and second wing structures or lateral projections 582 and 584 extending laterally outwardly from the side surfaces 542 and 544, respectively, of the digging tooth 522. Preferably, the first and second wing structures or lateral projections 582 and 584 extend outward from and are proximately disposed midway between the upper and lower

surfaces 530 and 532, respectively, of the tooth 522. In the same sense described above, the wing structure 580 including the projections 582, 584 serve to shield and protect ground engaging components disposed rearwardly of the rear end 536 of the digging tooth 522 against wear. Moreover, wing structure 580 serves to significantly widen the ground penetration zone provided by the digging tooth 522. Widening the penetration zone for the tooth also enhances ground penetration capability of the bucket edge while concomitantly reducing the energy required to effect such ends.

Please amend Paragraph [0146] as follows:

[0146] ~~Sections~~ Preferably, sections 582A and 582B of wing 582 ~~extends~~ extend laterally outward from the side surface 542 of tooth 522 proximately mid-distance between the upper and lower surfaces 530 and 532 of the digging tooth 522. In the illustrated embodiment, and while having sufficient strength to serve the purpose of which it is designed, each projection or wing section 582A and 582B comprising wing 582 has a relatively narrow vertical width, especially toward a forward end thereof, to promote ground penetration as the tooth is driven and moves horizontally through the ground.

Please amend Paragraph [0147] as follows:

[0147] In the illustrated embodiment, ~~the~~ each rearwardly disposed wing section 582B of the

wing structure 580 has a laterally widened portion 586B laterally extending from the side surface 542 of tooth a greater lateral width than does a laterally narrowed portion 586A of the forward disposed wing section 582A of the same wing structure. Each section 582A and 582B on wing 582 has a longitudinally extending outer edge portion 590A and 590B, respectively. Notably, however, the cumulative width and effect of the sections 582A and 582B is intended to be and is substantially equivalent to the lateral width of the comparable wing 182 on the above described digging tooth embodiment illustrated in FIGS. 8 through 12. Moreover, the cumulative width and effect of the wing sections 582A and 582B of wing 582 along with the cumulative width and effect of the wing sections 584A and 584B of wing 584 is intended to be and is substantially equivalent to the cumulative lateral width of the comparable wings 182 and 184 on the above described digging tooth embodiment illustrated in FIGS. 8 through 12.

Please amend Paragraph [0149] as follows:

[0149] In the exemplary embodiment shown in FIG. 24, the rear of the outer edge portion 590B of wing section 582B preferably extends in generally parallel relation to the centerline axis 538 of the digging tooth 522 for a longitudinal distance ranging between about one-third and one-half the overall distance between ends 534 and 536 of the digging tooth 522. In the preferred embodiment, the outer edge portion 590B thereafter laterally converges or angles toward the respective side surface of the tooth 522 from which wing section 583B laterally extends. Other

designs or profiles can equally apply, however, to the rear wing section on opposed sides of the tooth 522 without departing or detracting from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

Please amend Paragraph [0151] as follows:

[0151] In the embodiment shown in FIG. 24, the remaining edge portion of each rearwardly disposed wing section of the wings 582, 584 is preferably designed to promote ground penetration of the tooth 522. That is, the reminder of the extreme of each ~~rearwradly~~ rearwardly disposed wing section of each wing structure 580 is preferably provided with first and second chamferred edges similar to the edges 596 and 598. Similarly, the outer edge portion 590A on each forward wing section of wing structure an likewise have angularly converging edges to provide the forward disposed sections of the wing structure 580 with a sharpened or knife-like configuration whereby promoting the ability of the wing structure 580 to slice, penetrate and fracture the ground ahead of the leading bucket edge.

Please amend Paragraph [0152] as follows:

[0152] In the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 24, and primarily because the rearwardly disposed wing sections 582B and 584B of wings ~~pr~~ or projections 582 and 584, respectively, extend laterally outwardly from an area on the sides surfaces 542, 544. Preferably, the wing sections 582B and 584B of wings or projections 582 and 584, respectively, are arranged proximately

midway between the upper and lower surfaces 530, 532 of the digging tooth. Moreover, in the illustrated embodiment, the rearwardly disposed wing sections 582B and 584B on the digging tooth 522 ~~further defines~~ furthermore each preferably define a pair of open top, channels 583 and 585 substantially similar to those channels 183 and 185 discussed above. Accordingly, no further details need be provided for a proper and complete understanding thereof. Moreover, the digging tooth 522 can be configured to effect compression of a flex-pin type retaining apparatus used to releasably secure the adapter 520 and digging tooth 522 together as discussed in detail above. The structure for effecting compression of a flex-pin type retaining apparatus can be substantially similar to the structure discussed above with respect to tooth 122 and, thus, no further details need be provided for both a full and complete understanding thereof. Additionally, the digging tooth 522 can be configured to inhibit inadvertent lateral shifting of the retaining apparatus. The structure for inhibiting inadvertent lateral shifting of the retaining apparatus can be substantially similar to the structure discussed above with respect to tooth 122 and, thus, no further details need be provided for both a full and complete understanding thereof.

Please amend Paragraph [0167] as follows:

[0167] According to the present invention, and as shown in FIGS. 31 and 32, tooth 822 further includes wing structure 880 including first and second wing structures or lateral projections 882 and 884 extending laterally outwardly from the side surfaces 842 and 844, respectively, of and

preferably formed integral with the digging tooth portion 820A. In the same manner described above, the wing structures or lateral projections 882 and 884, respectively, comprising the wing structure 880 widen the penetration zone for the digging tooth, enhance ground penetration capability of the bucket edge while concomitantly protecting the cutting edge of the implement against wear.

Please amend Paragraph [0168] as follows:

[0168] After teeth embodying principals of the present invention are operably coupled to ~~their respective adapters~~ the digging implement or bucket, a lateral spacing of about 0.5 inches to about 0.75 inches is preferably provided between the outer edges of adjacent wings on laterally adjacent digging teeth. Largely depending upon their size, and after the winged teeth are operably coupled to ~~their respective adapters~~ the digging implement or bucket, a fore-and-aft spacing of about 0.5 inch to about 4.0 inches is preferably provided between the rear end of the winged structure on the digging teeth and the forward/leading edge 14 of the bucket. Such spacings allow for inadvertent misalignment of the adapters relative to the bucket edge. Such spacing also facilitates entrapment of dirt fines between adjacent digging teeth and the leading bucket edge. Of course, and without detracting from the spirit and scope of the invention, the wing structure on each tooth can extend rearwardly beyond the rear end of the respective digging tooth and toward the leading edge of the bucket lip.